

SITUATIONAL OBSTACLES FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION GATEKEEPERS AND THE MODERATING EFFECT OF SOCIAL SUPPORT

Taylor Moore

Project Safety Net

Colorado State University

RATIONALE FOR STUDY

- Colorado Evaluation Findings
 - Increase in knowledge and intentions following training
 - No increase in referrals 6-mo following gatekeeper training
- If they have the knowledge and intentions to intervene, what is preventing them from acting?



SITUATIONAL OBSTACLES

- *“environmental or contextual factors that directly or indirectly hinder the application of gatekeepers’ knowledge and skills acquired in the gatekeeper training program to real world situations.”*

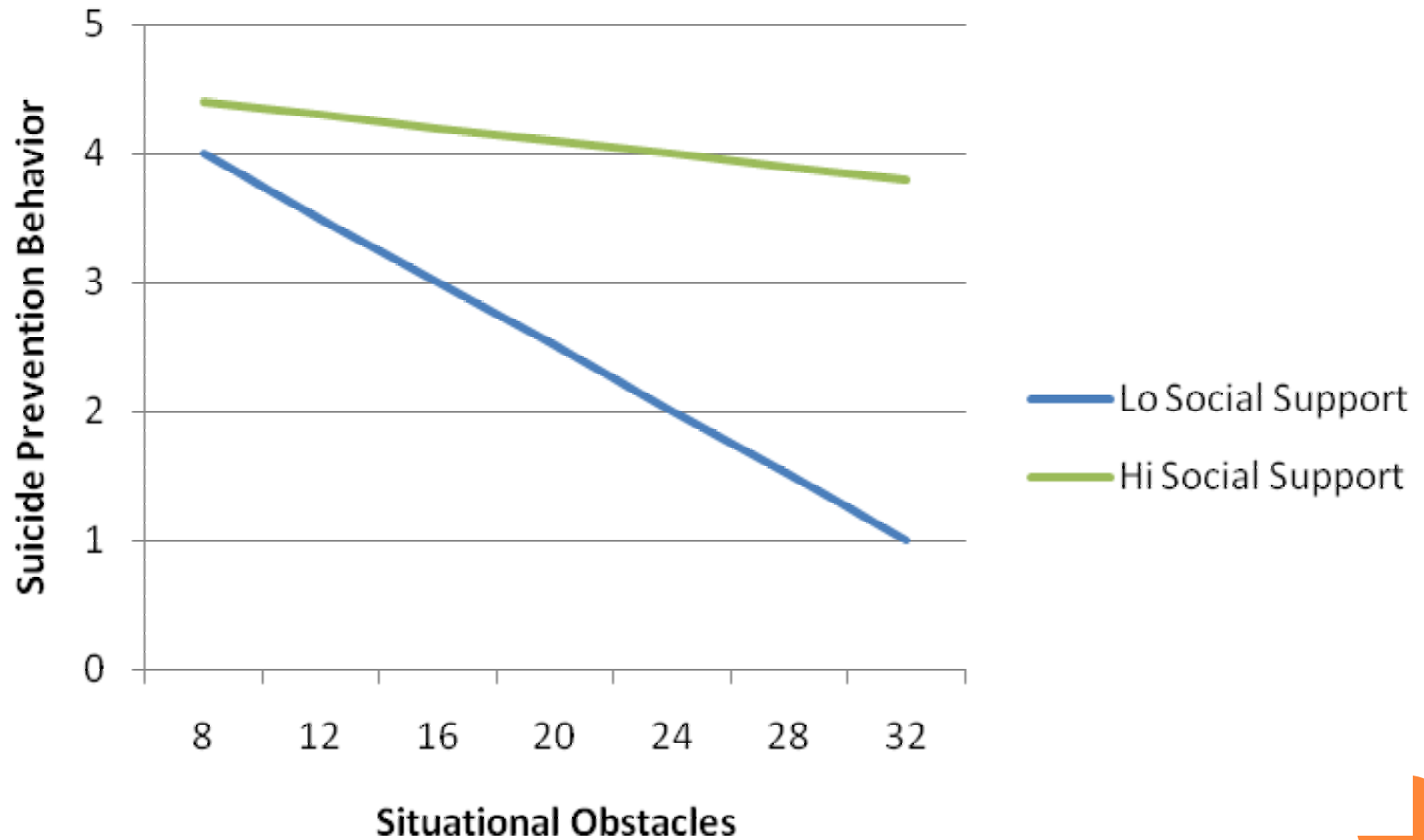


HYPOTHESES

1. Situational obstacles will be negatively related to suicide prevention behavior.
2. Social support from co-workers, supervisors, and organization will be positively related to suicide prevention behavior.
3. Social support from coworkers, supervisors, or organizations will moderate the relationship between situational obstacles and suicide prevention behavior. Specifically, the strength of the negative relationship between situational obstacles and suicide prevention behaviors will be stronger when support from coworkers, supervisors, or organizations is low compared to when support is high.



HYPOTHESIS 3



PILOT STUDIES

- Interviews with Community Coordinators
- Interviews with individuals who completed gatekeeper training
- Review of literature



SITUATIONAL OBSTACLES

- job-related information
- budgetary support
- required services and help from others
- time availability
- work environment
- opportunity to use



METHODS

- Created survey items based on the situational obstacles identified
- Used on-line survey (Survey Monkey)
- Recruited participants who had completed gatekeeper training in Colorado



METHODS

- 193 participants
 - 67% female
 - 74% Caucasian
 - Age: 21-84, mean= 40
 - Self-identified roles:
 - 31% - “parent/foster parent/caregiver”
 - 16% - “direct mental health service provider”
 - 15% - “teacher”



MEASURES (INDEPENDENT VARIABLE)

○ Situational Obstacles

- 6 items: $\alpha = .71$
- Participants indicated how much they agreed or disagreed with the statements based on six response categories: strongly disagree to strongly agree.
- High score = high level of situational obstacles
- Example item: “There is a lack of resources for suicide prevention in my organization” (budgetary support)



MEASURES (INDEPENDENT VARIABLE)

○ Social Support

- Co-worker: 2 items; $\alpha = .56$
 - “My co-workers would not appreciate if I displayed knowledge and skills on the job that I learned during gatekeeper training.”
- Supervisor : 3 items; $\alpha = .57$
 - “My supervisor and I never discuss specific ideas about how to apply my knowledge and skills from the gatekeeper training to my current job.”
- Organization: 9 items; $\alpha = .90$
 - “The organization does not value my contribution to suicide prevention efforts.”



MEASURES (DEPENDENT VARIABLES)

- Suicide Prevention Behavior
 - Four independent items measuring:
 - Use of knowledge and skills learned in training
 - Sharing knowledge with others
 - Screening individuals
 - Providing mental health services
 - Frequency that they engaged in behavior



RESULTS

- Situational obstacles negatively related to suicide prevention behaviors (Hypothesis 1 supported)
- Social support from supervisors and organization positively related to suicide prevention behaviors (Hypothesis 2 partially supported)



RESULTS

○ Hypothesis 3: Interaction

- Only 3 of 8 were significant
- For “Used knowledge and skills from training”:
 - Supervisor Support X Situational Obstacles ($\Delta R^2 = .03$, $p < .05$)
 - Organization Support X Situational Obstacles ($\Delta R^2 = .03$, $p < .05$)
- For “Provided mental health services”:
 - Organization Support X Situational Obstacles ($\Delta R^2 = .04$, $p < .05$)
- However, when interactions are graphed, trend was not in expected direction



RESULTS

- Sub-group comparisons
 - Created two groups: High and low support
 - Compared correlations between situational obstacles and prevention behaviors for each group
 - Not statistically significant, but in expected direction
 - Specifically, the negative correlations between situational obstacles and suicide prevention behaviors were stronger (more negative) for the low support group compared to the high support group.



DISCUSSION

- Our findings suggest that situational obstacles may impede a gatekeeper's ability to perform their gatekeeper role.
- Suggests that supervisors and organizations would play an important role in fostering gatekeepers' ability to perform their role.



IMPLICATIONS

- Remove situational obstacles
 - Identify during training; gives a “heads-up”
 - Generate solutions to prepare for potential challenges
- Improve support from supervisors
 - Increase verbal exchanges between supervisor and workers (Zohar, 2002)
- Improve organizational climate
 - Leadership intervention



QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Contact Info:

Taylor Moore

jeffery.taylor.moore@gmail.com

Cell: 765.412.2459

